

Weekly Views

March 28, 2014

The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) donated corn-hole boards to Helping Hands for Freedom. Madison Correctional facility made the boards, and they are going to be the center piece for a charity corn hole tournament fund raiser. The boards will be on display at Indiana Grand Casino in Shelbyville April 12 for the "Heroes Gala". For more information, visit www.helpinghandsforfreedom.org.

The Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) unit at the New Castle Correctional Facility donated \$2,500 to the New Castle Henry County Animal Shelter.

Members of the Indiana State Police Hostage Negotiation Team from the Northern Region visited the Westville Correctional Facility and Indiana State Prison. During tours of each facility the group met with SITCON, E-squad, Administrative and Internal Affairs staff.

Pendleton Correctional Facility received training from Metrasens representatives on the use of the Cellsense, which was recently purchased for use by the facility. Cellsense is a portable full body scanner that detects for cell phones, whether turned on or off, as well as other contraband. The scanner can screen inmates from anywhere, even behind walls. After completion of the training, company representatives and facility staff tested the Cellsense on offender line movements. Within an hour, the Cellsense detected contraband on an offender and a search of the offender resulted in the confiscation of a cell phone.

Camp Summit Boot Camp staff and selected students performed community service at the LaPorte Salvation Army. Some of the volunteer work included filling bags with donated food items for children at elementary schools in the LaPorte area for consumption on the weekends. The program started as a result of the Salvation Army personnel learning that some students from the elementary schools do not have food or meals to eat on the weekends and in some cases the only cooked meals they may get is provided by the schools during the week.

The Correctional Industrial Facility, working with the Indiana Blood Center (IBC) for a two-day drive, donated 41 units of blood. As a treat to the donors, and to welcome them to IBC, donuts and cupcakes were provided to the morning donors and subway and pizza to the lunch time donors. Each donation results in multiple usable components for patients at Indiana hospitals and CIF is proud to help fellow Hoosiers in need.

MTV and ABC camera crews were busy at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF), focusing on youth behind bars. MTV is launching a show called "One Bad Choice" about a teenager's split second decision that resulted in a 55-year prison term. ABC is preparing a Nightline report about two of the so called "Elkhart 4" housed at WVCF. The story will center on how the teens were charged and convicted of felony murder after a home burglary gone wrong. Both shows will air later this year.

IMPD Officer James Hornaday was the last speaker in the Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) RRRP Victims Impact Series presentations. Officer Hornaday's story was one of perseverance, determination, and strength. He told the audience the story about his journey from being the victim of gun violence to his remarkable recovery from injuries sustained as he tried to serve a warrant at an Indianapolis home. Officer Hornaday's session marked the end of RRRP's eight week class which focuses on the power of forgiveness, and encouraging responsible thinking and behavior.

Members of the Madison Correctional Facility Unit Team participated in the 11th Annual Jennings County Bowl for Kids Sake. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Indiana raised over \$16,000. Madison's team raised the most money.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility is pleased to announce the promotion of Daniel Cooper to Maintenance Foreman. Mr. Cooper began his career with Logansport Juvenile in April 2007 as a Maintenance Repairperson. Before he began his career with IDOC, he worked as a maintenance technician, house framer and is currently a firefighter with the Walton and New Waverly Fire Departments and holds Hazardous Materials certifications.

Several staff members were recognized as excelling in their positions at Putnamville Correctional Facility during a staff assembly lead by Superintendent Stanley Knight. Congratulations to Employees of the quarter Vicki Stewart and Joshua Kingery, as well as supervisors of the quarter Elesha Hidalgo and Sergeant Casey Harder!

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility (COLCF) held its quarterly staff recall meeting recognizing Officer Yolanda Jones as Employee of the Quarter. Also recognized was Maintenance Supervisor Bob Beckley for his 40 years of dedicated service to the town of Albion as a volunteer firefighter. The facility also conducted its semi-annually Community Advisory Board meeting in which Noble County Food Bank Director Bonnie Brownell presented Superintendent Kathy Griffin with a certificate for the generosity and assistance shown for the less fortunate in the community. COLCF staff and offenders most recently assisted Noble County Food Bank with a monetary donation and canned goods after a fire destroyed most of their in stock items.

Students at Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility (MJCF) enjoyed a music filled weekend. Artists from Broken Chains entered MJCF with enough musical power to be heard wherever students were located. Broken Chains, an Indianapolis based Christian group, brings a mixture of street music including rap, hip hop, soul, poetry, and testimony. A strong message of hope and expressions that they were not forgotten played through the music that reverberated throughout the facility. The musical adventure took another turn as the Elnora Bible Institute Choir made the last stop in their spring 2014 tour at Madison Juvenile. This 42 member choir, accompanied by only a pitch pipe, brought a more traditional sound to the facility. Both events gave the musicians and MJCF students an opportunity to meet, making a connection that just may change a life.